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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DISTRIBUTION

DATE: 19 October 1970
COINS/493-70

FROM : Chairman, COINS User Support Panel

SUBJECT: Monthly Report (September 1970)

1. DIA SYSTEM DOWN - DIA's IBM-360/50, which had been used for processing of DIA/s COINS files, was disconnected at the end of September as planned. This machine is being shipped to another location, and the COINS files are to be handled on the GE-635 system now in operation at DIA. Although considerable work has been done in preparation for this rollover, much is yet to be done, and DIA has announced that it will be out of the network for approximately six weeks. The COINS switch at DIA, an IBM - 360/30, will continue in operation, however, so that files at CIA and NSA will still be available to users at all participating agencies, including DIA.

2. CUSP CHARTER - Attachment 1 to this report is an up-dated version of the CUSP charter. A very recent change to the membership list is the NSA replacement [redacted] 25X1 now represents NSA on the Test & Analysis Panel, vice [redacted] 25X1 This switch was made to take better advantage of the experience and current operational assignments of these individuals. 25X1

3. COINS USER SUPPORT DOCUMENTS - Up-dating of these will begin when the new DIA and NSA systems are made available to users.

4. DIA COINS USERS GUIDE - A guide to use of COINS files in DIA's GE-635 system has been published and distributed to the COINS management offices at each participating agency. Copies of this guide, or specially tailored versions of it, will be provided by these offices to users.

5. CODES AND ABBREVIATIONS IN COINS FILES - A study has been made of all COINS file descriptions to determine what can be done to facilitate the use and interpretation of the codes and abbreviations contained in these files. From the user's viewpoint, two problems exist:

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(1) Many of the codes used are taken from documents which cover the particular subject in depth, and are thus voluminous. These publications (see Attachment 2) are referenced in the file descriptions and are kept current by the originators. Thus the user must obtain a copy of the reference(s) pertaining to the file(s) of interest to him, and must arrange for regular distribution of updates. This does not appear to be a major problem, however, because in most cases a person interested in a particular file is assigned to an element which is working on related problems, and already has the referenced document(s).

(2) Codes or abbreviations used in many of the COINS file information fields are not explained in the existing file descriptions (see Attachment 3). A strong effort will be made by the CUSP to rectify this situation when [redacted] becomes available in DIA's new system. File corrections will be easier to make in the new system, where it can be done on-line. 25X1

Consolidation of all of the codes and abbreviations into one master machine file is deemed by the CUSP to be impractical and economically wasteful. Considerable time and effort would be required to create such a file, not to mention the requirements for continually maintaining it. The result would be several volumes which would have to be retained by every user of COINS - even though most users normally make use of only one file, and several of the files do not require use of other publications.

The most practical and economical solution is as follows:

(1) File sponsors should ensure that their file descriptions [redacted] are thorough and accurate at all times. (The CUSP will apply pressure to see that this is done.) 25X1

(2) Operational users of a file should obtain a copy of the file's description and any referenced supporting documents. (The CUSP will assist users in obtaining these.) 25X1

[redacted]

Chairman, COINS User Support Panel

Attachments:
a/s

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